



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

No. 65

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are wisdom without end, mercy without limit, and strength beyond resistance. Lord, we glorify Your Name.

Today, lead our lawmakers around the obstacles that hinder them from accomplishing Your purposes. Lord, guide them around the stumbling blocks of resentment, pessimism, and unbelief that impede legislative effectiveness. Help our Senators to live to honor You. Fill their hours with Your redeeming radiance and their hearts with Your peace. May they work to advance the influence of Your Kingdom.

We pray, in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday, an overwhelming bipartisan majority of Senators voted to move forward on Senator HIRONO and Senator DUCKWORTH's anti-Asian hate crimes bill. I was pleased the vote was so substantial, 92 to 6. Rarely do you see 92 Senators agree to move forward with any piece of legislation. But if there was ever a topic that deserves a strong showing of bipartisan support, it is standing up to bigotry and racism against a particular group of Americans.

Today, we will continue to work on a bipartisan agreement regarding amendments. I have committed to start the process with the bipartisan Moran-Blumenthal amendment. I understand my Republican colleague from Maine has some modifications to the bill, which we welcome, and those negotiations are proceeding afoot. I expect the Republican leader and I, in consultation with the relevant committees, will be able to figure out an appropriate number of reasonable, germane, and non-gotcha amendments for the Senate to consider.

We are working with Senators MORAN, GRASSLEY, and COLLINS in a very bipartisan way, and we should be able to wrap up this bill next week. By doing so, the Senate will deliver a pow-

erful message to Asian Americans that their voices are heard, their concerns are felt, and that their government will take swift, decisive action to protect them. They are not alone.

Before I move on, I just want to say to my Republican colleagues: This is how the Senate can work, even though it is closely divided. When there is a pressing issue, like the rising tide of anti-Asian violence, the Senate can act quickly and in a bipartisan way to address it.

We don't need to always distrust the other party. This bill was never intended to be a messaging bill or gotcha legislation. This bill is like a drive straight down the middle of the fairway—well-timed, modest, unobjectionable.

At the end of the day, we can achieve a result that has both substantive and symbolic importance: substantive because we are going to adjust the focus of the Justice Department to better respond to anti-Asian hate crimes and symbolic because both parties are standing up to deliver a message that racism and bigotry have no place—no place—in America. That is an undeniably good result.

NOMINATION OF VANITA GUPTA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another, less happy, matter, this afternoon the Senate will need to go through a rare procedure to discharge a nomination from the Judiciary Committee: Ms. Vanita Gupta to serve as Associate Attorney General.

The daughter of immigrants from India, Ms. Gupta is the first civil rights attorney and the first woman of color to ever be nominated for Associate Attorney General, the third ranking official at the Department of Justice. Her public track record is nothing short of exemplary.

In her very first case after law school, Ms. Gupta won the release of several African Americans who had

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S1951